As the operation of the Government orders prescribing reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes in Government services has been stayed by the Supreme Court, even before the order could be given effect, employment provided to persons belonging to the backward classes under the reserved quota has not been maintained.

The vacancies that are likely to be available for the reserved categories in the Central Government Department/Public Sector Undertakings depends upon the total number of vacancies that would arise in different categories of posts which in-turn depends upon a number of other factors such as expansion of activities, clearance of projects, wastage of manpower etc. It is thus not possible to project vacancies that would arise in the future.

Special facilities provided to SC/ST candidates include relaxations and concessions with regard to age/limit, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, reimbursement of travelling expenses for interviews, separate interviews for candidates belonging to SC/ST, inclusion of a Member belonging to SC/ST in Selection Committees and relaxation in standards of suitability and experience. Such concessions have not been extended to persons belonging to the backward classes.

Standing Advisory Committee on Agricultural Policy Matters

4965. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held by the Standing Advisory Committee on Agricultural Policy matters headed by Shri Sharad Joshi;

(b) the important suggestions made at the meetings; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government on those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Standing Advisory Committee held 24 meetings.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Standing Advisory Committee on Agricultural Policy Matters

S. No.	*Suggestions*	*Follow up action/Views*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Expert Committee on Cost of Production	
	Government had appointed an Expert Committee for Review of methodology of cost of production of crops. The Interim Report of the Committee was referred to the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), and the latter suggested certain modifications relating to valuation of labour inclusion of Management as an input cost.	Government accepted the modification suggested by the SAC.
2.	National Agricultural Policy	
	The Committee considered the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and gave its recommendations in the form of a Draft National Agricultural Policy.	The National Agricultural Policy draft prepared by the SAC was in the nature of comments on the draft Agricultural Policy Resolution prepared by the Department. The Department's Draft was revised after considering the views of the SAC. A Committee was constituted to finalise the draft. The revised draft has been circulated to the States/UTs/Agricultural Universities for comments.

S. No.	Suggestions	Follow up action/Views
1	2	3
3.	Points brought to the notice of Committee during its visit to cyclone affected areas in Andhra Pradesh	
	i) Coverage under Crop Insurance Scheme	
	At several Places, both the kharif and rabi crops lying harvested in the field were lost because of cyclone but the affected farmers were not given any compensation on the plea that insurance cover applied to standing crops and hence ceased at the point of harvesting	Insurance coverage under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance scheme (CCIS) extends only to the standing crops before the harvesting stage. In past also, no such relaxation to any stage has so far been given.
	ii) Assistance given to farmers	
	Indequate assistance given to farmers and general neglect of drainage and irrigation canadls.	The entire Central share of the State Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 64.50 crores has already been released to the State Governments. Besides, the World Bank has also

S. No.	Suggestions	Follow up action/Views
1	2	3
		provided some assistance by way of loan/credit for undertaking drainage work in the Godavari Delta Basin. Action on local problems rests with the State Government.
iii)	Maximum Credit Limit for farmers The concerned authorities may be requested to re-examine the stipulation of maximum credit limits with a view to abolishing the same.	The Individual Maximum Borrowing Power (IMBP) is fixed at Society level as per its bye-laws which are approved by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies/State Govt. It is left to the State Government/Registrar of Cooperative Societies to review the IMBP if it is coming in the way of meeting the credit requirements of farmers.
iv)	Need for integrated watershed development and command area management in the concerned areas.	The National Watershed Development Project for rainfed areas was launched in Andhra Pradesh as Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1986-87

S. No.	Suggestions	Follow up action/Views
1	2	3
		during the VII Plan. The scheme is continuing during 1991-92.
4.	Licencing of Sugar Industry	
	The modal Ministry for considering the issues of licences for new sugar factories should be the Ministry of Agriculture as sugarcane development is looked after by the Ministry.	The Department of Agriculture is taking follow up action.
5.	Recommendation of the Expert Group on Seeds	
	The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had forwarded the recommendations of the Expert Group on seeds and the observations of the Empowered Committee on these recommendations to the SAC for comments. The SAC had slightly different opinion in regard to 10 recommendations.	Views of the SAC are being processed.

S. No.	Suggestions	Follow up action/Views
1	2	3
6.	Fisheries, Poultry & Dairying	
	Electricity and water charges for fisheries, poultry and dairy should be charged on the same basis as agriculture.	Ministry of Water Resources and ministry of Energy have been requested for consideration in case of fisheries. For poultry and dairy, the matter has been taken up with State Governments and Union Territories.
7.	Treating Coconut as Oilseed	
	For the purpose of support price of Kopra/Coconut and the management of edible oil supply and prices, it would be correct to treat Kopra/Coconut a an oilseed.	Government accepted this suggestion.
8.	Study of Terms of Trade	
	Methodological suggestions	Constitution of task force by the

S. No.	Suggestions	Follow up action/Views
1	2	3
	pertained to the relative weightage to be given to producers with marketable surplus/marketed surplus and peasantry as a whole, need for taking into account the spread of prices over different seasons, and use of retail prices.	Ministry of Agriculture to look into the construction of terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors is a recommendation of the Expert Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are yet to be accepted and implemented.
9.	Export of meat Greater attention should be paid to producing hygienic meat not merely for the export market, but also for domestic consumption in modern slaughter house. For this attention should be given to development of animal husbandry of disease-free and healthy cattle and birds with an optimum feed-to-meat ratio. Slaughter will need to be limited to animals required to be culled for productive husbandry.	Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, 'Investment in Slaughter House Corporations' and 'Improvement of existing abattoirs/meat plants' are in operation.